

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 11 and 24 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows (**a marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached at the end of this Response**):

1. (Amended - Clean Copy) A data generating device, provided in an electronic endoscope, said device generating an image data corresponding to an object image obtained by said electronic endoscope, and character information including a date when said object image is obtained, said device comprising:

B' a date-differentiating processor that generates said character information so that, when said date is displayed on a screen of a display device along with said object image:

at least one of the year, month, and day is differentiated on said screen, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the year, month, and day to a color or character type different from the others; and

the date is displayed in an order of at least one of year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year.

19. (Amended - Clean Copy) An electronic endoscope comprising:

B² a display processor configured to display a date in an order of at least one of year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year, along with an object image on a screen; and

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B² a storing processor that stores said date along with said object image in an image storage device as a single image;

said storing processor configured to differentiate at least one of the year, month, and day by storing one of the year, month, and day by a different color or a different character type in said image storage device.

29. (Amended - Clean Copy) An electronic endoscope comprising:

B³ a display processor configured to display a date in an order of at least one of year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year, along with an object image on a screen; and

a date-differentiating processor that sets the mode of display of the year, month, and day to be displayed by said display processor so as to differentiate at least one of the year, month, and day on said screen, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the year, month, and day to a color or character type different from the others.

Please enter the following new claims for consideration by the Examiner:

---30. A data generating device for an electronic endoscope, the data generating device comprising:

an image data generator configured to generate image data corresponding to an object image obtained by the electronic endoscope; and

B⁴ a date-differentiating processor configured to generate character information including a date, such that when the date is displayed on a screen of a display device along with the object image said date-differentiating processor differentiates at least one of year, month and day on the screen by setting one of the year, month, and day to at least one of a color and character type different from the other of the year, month and day;

wherein an order of the displayed date is switchably displayable from among the year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year.

31. An electronic endoscope comprising:

a display processor configured to selectively and switchably display, along with an object image on a screen, an order of a date from among year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year; and

a storing processor configured to:

store the date along with said object image in an image storage device as a single image; and

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store the at least one of one of the year, month, and day of the date by at least one of a different color and a different character type in said image storage device.

32. An electronic endoscope comprising:

B⁴ a display processor configured to switchably display, along with an object image on a screen, an order of a date from among year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year; and

a date-differentiating processor configured to differentiate at least one of the year, month, and day on the screen by setting one of the year, month, and day to at least one of a color and character type different from that of the other of the year, month and day.---
